

and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963 and Texas A&M University in 1964. He is also a 1994 graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1961, Don Waldon moved back to Mobile and began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he worked as a project engineer conducting feasibility studies for water resource projects such as ports and waterways. In 1966, Don became a Budget Examiner in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the Executive Office of the President where he advised the OMB and White House officials, including the president, on major budgetary, policy, and legislative matters involving natural resources. His agency responsibilities included the Interior Department, the Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority. From 1969 to 1974, he held the position of Principal Examiner, at which time he assumed the duties of Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior. His responsibilities included management of all land and water resource agencies within the Department of the Interior. At that point in time, they had a total annual budget of nearly \$2 billion and nearly 12,000 employees. Additionally, he served on a number of White House task forces, particularly those involving energy during this period.

In 1974, after a successful career in the federal government, Don decided to move back to the south and was hired as the Deputy Administrator at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority. On July 1, 1984 Don took over the position of Administrator, a position he has held for the past 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals who have provided more invaluable service to their community, their state, and their country than Donald Waldon. He is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to public service, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement. I know his family—his wife, Jackie, his four children, and his four grandchildren—as well as his colleagues and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending heartfelt thanks for his many efforts on behalf of the state of Alabama, and indeed, a grateful nation. I would like to wish him much success in all future endeavors as he enters this new phase of his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO TIMBERLINE LODGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Timberline Lodge on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary under the management of the Kohnstamm Family and their business, RLK & Company, and to commemorate the important historical events that have contributed to the lodge's status as one of the great landmarks in Oregon. Timberline Lodge is a National Historic Landmark and treasure of Oregon that provides abundant recreational activities on Mt. Hood and the Mt. Hood National Forest, providing Oregonians and Ameri-

cans alike with a special place to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. As I commute each week from my home in Hood River to our nation's capital city, I am warmly greeted by the sight of Mt. Hood and thus frequently reminded that Timberline Lodge is a very special place in our very special country.

100 years ago the U.S. Forest Service was established by President Teddy Roosevelt to maintain and sustain the diverse, healthy, and productive management of our national forests. Since its establishment in 1905, the U.S. Forest Service has been an integral part of the history of Mt. Hood and Timberline Lodge.

Timberline Lodge sits 6,000 feet above sea level on Mt. Hood, the tallest mountain in Oregon at 11,235 feet above sea level. Mr. Speaker, the lodge itself is a testament to the trials and tribulations that our nation faced during the Great Depression. It can be seen as a symbol of our strength and resolve, as well as a past generation's struggle to overcome adversity. President Franklin D. Roosevelt commissioned the construction of Timberline Lodge in 1936, a project many at the time called the "American Experiment." Through the Works Progress Administration, Roosevelt employed numerous craftsmen throughout the country who had fallen onto hard times during the depression. Over 500 people worked diligently for 15 months while battling the cold of the Cascades as they worked to construct the lodge by hand, even through the heart of winter. They did so with remarkable skill, style, and substance, and they did so very quickly and efficiently. In September of 1937, President Roosevelt opened the lodge to great fanfare.

Today we see Timberline Lodge as a fantastic success story and a shining example of the self-determination that helped propel a nation and a generation from the hardship and difficulties we faced during the Great Depression. This was not always the case. There were times when it appeared that Timberline Lodge would not succeed. Soon after the dedication in 1937, it fell on hard times. Mismanagement and poor decisions by numerous operators left many wondering if the toils of the labor that went into the construction of Timberline Lodge would be left for future generations of Oregonians to enjoy. It was closed temporarily during World War II, and just 18 years after its inception the future of the lodge appeared bleak.

Then a remarkable young man named Richard Kohnstamm arrived on the scene from New York City and brought hope and enthusiasm to the region, albeit with little experience in the hotel and lodging business. During his travels, Richard had seen how great lodges and castles were woven into Europe's cultural fabric and envisioned that Timberline Lodge could one day mean the same for tourists from all over the world in our beautiful state of Oregon. Through his creativity, perseverance, and steadfast entrepreneurship, he fulfilled the promise of the lodge and the plentiful recreational opportunities that were previously untapped. Not only did the Kohnstamm family repair the damages that existed at the time they first assumed management of Timberline Lodge and create a sense of permanent stability for it, they also established a world class tourist attraction and state of the art ski lift and trail system.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Timberline Lodge's manage-

ment under the Kohnstamm Family and RLK & Company, I would like to highlight the tremendous job that has been done to make the lodge one of the premier destinations in the Pacific Northwest that all walks of life enjoy year round. The Kohnstamms are great hosts and great neighbors to all of us in Oregon, and to outdoor enthusiasts around the world. Oregonians are fortunate to have them as our neighbors.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF ROBERT RANGEL

**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Robert Rangel, the staff director for the House Armed Services Committee, for his 18 years of loyal and dedicated commitment to the Committee and to the United States Congress.

Robert graduated from the University of Kentucky and immediately went to work for Representative Larry J. Hopkins in Lexington, Kentucky. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to be a Rep. Hopkins' Senior Legislative Assistant.

In 1987, Robert joined the House Armed Services Committee as a Professional Staff Member responsible for intelligence, defense, acquisition and counter-drug policy. He also served as the lead writer of the committee's after-action report on Operation Desert Storm. By 1994, Robert assumed the role of Deputy Staff Director and was responsible for the daily operations of the committee and staff. In 2000, he was appointed Staff Director for the Committee under former Chairman Floyd Spence.

Robert is a respected leader who shepherds the annual defense authorization act through the Congressional process and ultimately into public law. As such, he is a constant and trusted advisor to the Chairman, ranking member, staff, and the committee as a whole. Through his 18 years of steadfast service, Robert has bestowed onto the committee an extensive knowledge of national security issues & policy and was able to provide a clear understanding of legislative procedure. I speak for myself, past chairman, ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Robert, in thanking him for his tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

On behalf of the Committee and the United States Congress, I wish him, his wife Joy, and two boys Alex and John, the best of luck as he leaves the Committee and begins a new chapter of his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO LTC JUAN CRISTOBAL GOMEZ III

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the men and

women in uniform who have risked life and limb in the name of Liberty and Freedom. I wish to give special attention to LTC Juan Cristobal Gomez III, an extraordinary man who devoted his life to God and Country.

Those of us from the San Luis Valley and Northern New Mexico were privileged to know this man of exceptional character and profound faith. LTC Gomez always said "When you honor one veteran, you honor all veterans." Through this tribute to Juan, I pay homage to all who have served and sacrificed for this great Nation.

Juan Cristobal Gomez III was born in Durango, CO in 1946 and was raised on the Gomez Ranch in Frances. He enlisted in the Army June 2, 1969 at Ft. Polk, LA, and then graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1970. During his time in the Army and Army Reserves, Juan was stationed with Ft. Carson, CO, Evans Army Medical Center, CO, and William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Ft. Bliss, TX. He served on active duty with Evans Army Medical Center Unit during Operation Desert Storm, and also spent time with Medcom Unit #15281 in Korea in 1996 and again in 1998. Throughout his career he received many military awards and attended several military schools. Juan retired from the United States Army Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1996.

Juan touched the lives of everyone he came into contact with, always parting with "I love you" or "God bless". After he retired from the Army Reserves, he continued to serve his country through the work he did with veterans. He exemplified the notion that even when the uniform is placed in the closet, a soldier's duty is never complete to his Nation.

In November of 2003, Gomez was honored with an award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for "furthering the goals of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society by fostering and perpetuating patriotism in communities throughout the San Luis Valley and Northern New Mexico." Juan cherished his friendships with our Medal of Honor recipients and honored them in all he did because of who they are and the values they embody.

Colorado and the Nation were at a great loss on July 10, 2004, when we lost LTC Juan Gomez. However, the life Juan led inspired us all; he challenged us to give a little of ourselves for the betterment of our Nation. We pay tribute this Memorial Day to thousands of veterans like LTC Juan Gomez, patriots who gave selflessly to protect this great Nation, and community leaders who inspire those around them by their service to a cause greater than themselves.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL JOHN T. SCHMIDT III TO OUR COUNTRY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Lance Corporal John T. Schmidt III, who died on May 11

from injuries sustained while in combat in Iraq and in service to our country.

John was born in Carmel, New York and was a graduate of Oviedo High School in Oviedo, Florida. This fine young man was just 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Schmidt was a proud member of the United States Marine Corps, and today he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. We remember today John's courage and his ultimate sacrifice to our nation.

Greater love hath no man than to give up his life for others. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy John leaves behind.

He was the son of John Schmidt, Jr. of Bunnell, Florida. His additional family included his mother and stepfather, Barbara and Eric Jimenez, and another stepfather, Donald Porricelli, all of Danbury, Connecticut; and his maternal grandparents, Richard and Jean Backlund of St. Augustine, Florida. To all of John's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Lance Corporal John T. Schmidt III's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service as a Marine and his life as a wonderful son, and in remembering his dedication to the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAN ELIASSON, SWEDEN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary diplomat, a remarkable representative of his native Sweden, a friend and admirer of the United States, and a man whom Annette and I count as a dear, dear friend—Jan Eliasson, the Ambassador of Sweden to the United States. Jan is now leaving his position here in Washington, D.C., and shortly he will assume the critical role of President of the United Nations General Assembly, the first Swede to serve in this post.

In a biographical article, an American magazine reported that Jan Eliasson is referred to by his friends and family as "James Bond" "because of his charm, elegance, and rugged good looks." The same article described Jan as "brilliant, serious and dedicated to strengthening the role of the United Nations, as well as improving the lot of man." Mr. Speaker, I know Jan Eliasson, and I believe that these descriptions suit his persona and his character to perfection.

Another facet of Jan that I particularly admire and respect has been his commitment to the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg. At the request and with the support of the United States Government, Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish Legation in Budapest at the height of Nazi deportations of Hungarian Jews to death camps. Through creativity, tenacity

and grit, Wallenberg saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews, including my wife Annette and myself. After the liberation of Budapest, Wallenberg was arrested by the Soviet military, and he was never seen outside the Soviet gulag since then. Sweden did not press the Soviets for his release, and many Swedish diplomats saw him as an example of what a diplomat should not do. Jan Eliasson disagreed strongly with that view. He has been one of the strongest and most effective advocates of Raoul Wallenberg, and he has been a leader in Sweden in honoring Wallenberg's humanitarian heritage.

Mr. Speaker, the position of President of the UN General Assembly is critically important, and Jan Eliasson comes to it at a critical time in the history of the United Nations. But he also brings an exceptional background that makes him uniquely qualified to lead the General Assembly at this time.

As Jan takes the helm at the General Assembly, the United Nations faces demands for reform. The Secretary General has already made positive and far-reaching proposals, and the Congress is preparing to consider legislation on that same issue in the next few weeks. The President of the General Assembly will also chair a summit this fall to review the Millennium Development Goals on sustainable and equitable global development.

Jan served as Sweden's Ambassador to the United Nations from 1988 to 1992, and at that same time he served as the Secretary General's personal representative on Iran/Iraq. In 1992 he was appointed the first Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, and in that post he was involved in UN operations in Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique and the Balkans. Few Presidents of the General Assembly come to that position with the broad experience as well as the intellectual and emotional commitment to the United Nations that Jan brings.

During his five years as Sweden's ambassador to the United States, he has contributed to strengthening our bilateral relations in a critical time as we here faced the shock and tragedy of September 11th and engaged in the fight against terrorism. For six years prior to his assignment in Washington, Jan was Deputy Secretary of State in the Swedish Foreign Ministry, a key position in the formulation and implementation of Swedish foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, while I am enthusiastic about Jan Eliasson's new opportunity, we also bid him farewell with serious reservations. He has been a truly outstanding representative of Sweden in the United States. He has brought a genuine love of America as well as a deep understanding and sympathy of our country as well. Jan was an exchange student and graduated from high school in Indiana. He has spent well over a decade as a Swedish diplomat living in New York City and Washington, D.C.

My wife, Annette, and I will sorely miss Jan and his wife Kerstin. We wish them well in their very important new assignment in New York, and we look forward to seeing them in New York and again in the Nation's Capital.